

HCS HB 1485 -- TAX CREDIT FOR PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS

SPONSOR: Phillips (Icet)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 9 to 2.

This substitute authorizes an income tax credit for 50% of contributions to qualified pregnancy resource centers.

Pregnancy resource centers are nonresidential facilities that provide assistance and support to women with crisis or unplanned pregnancies and do not provide abortions or referrals for abortion services.

The tax credit may be taken against income tax, corporate franchise tax, insurance premium tax, financial institutions tax, and express company tax liability. The tax credit is not refundable, but can be carried forward and claimed for up to four taxable years.

The maximum credit a taxpayer can claim is \$50,000 per year, and the minimum contribution must be at least \$100. The statewide maximum of tax credits that can be taken in any one year is \$2 million. The Department of Social Services is to designate the centers and apportion the credits when the applications exceed the statewide cap.

The provisions of the substitute will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost to General Revenue Fund of \$46,394 in FY 2007, \$46,357 to \$2,046,357 in FY 2008, and \$47,523 to \$2,047,523 in FY 2009. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of \$2,164 in FY 2007, \$0 in FY 2008, and \$0 in FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say this tax credit for donors to pregnancy resource centers is similar to the tax credit for domestic violence centers and maternity homes. The credit will provide additional support as these centers are attempting to increase the health and welfare benefits of women through mentoring, counseling, education, and treatment. Pregnancy resource centers provide care from the time a woman finds out that she is pregnant until the baby is born and sometimes up to six months post-delivery.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Icet; Missouri Catholic Conference; Pregnancy Care Center; Campaign Life Missouri; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Baptist Convention, Christian Life Commission; Missouri Right to Life; Missouri Eagle Forum; and Alliance for Life-Missouri.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that pregnancy resource

centers do not discuss all viable options and would like an amendment requiring the centers to provide women with medically accurate information. The plurality of religious views on abortion and other pregnancy options are ignored by these centers and pressure women into one decision over another.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri; Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains-Southwest Missouri; and Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst